

glycosides are converted to aglycones by breaking the attachment of the sugar moiety to the aglycone molecule.

76. The additive of claim 75, wherein the hops are hop solids.

77. The additive of claim 76, further comprising at least one hop fraction selected from the group consisting of hop oil, iso- α -acids, dihydroiso- α -acids, tetrahydroiso- α -acids, and hexahydroiso- α -acids.

78. In a post-kettle boil, post-fermentation additive for direct addition to a malt beverage, the improvement which comprises a purified and converted aqueous alcohol extract of hops which are purified with respect to glycosides by removing at least some free carbohydrates and inorganic salts and then at least some of the glycosides are converted to aglycones by breaking the attachment of the sugar moiety to the aglycone molecule.

79. The additive of claim 78, wherein the hops are hop solids.

80. The additive of claim 79, further comprising at least one hop fraction selected from the group consisting of hop oil, iso- α -acids, dihydroiso- α -acids, tetrahydroiso- α -acids, and hexahydroiso- α -acids.- -

§ 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 29 - 30 and 72 - 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for the use of the phrase "consisting essentially of" in the preamble. Claims 29-30 and 72-73 have been cancelled and newly added claims 75-80 do not use the objectionable language. Accordingly, it is believed that this rejection is now moot.

§ 102 Rejection

Claims 29 - 30 and 72 - 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Vitzthum, et al. Claims 29, 30, 72, and 73 have been cancelled. Newly added claims 75-80 now focus on an especially preferred aspect of the present invention. Specifically, the claims now recite a post-kettle boil, post-fermentation additive for direct addition to a malt beverage, wherein the improvement comprises a purified and converted aqueous alcohol extract of hops. More specifically, the claimed additive includes aglycones that have been converted from glycosides by breaking the attachment of the sugar moiety to the aglycone molecule.

There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in Vitzthum of a converted water extract of hops as is claimed in the present invention. Further, Vitzthum does not teach or suggest the removal of free carbohydrates

and inorganic salts. Further, what is the basis for the assertion in the Office Action that the water extract of Vitzthum would inherently contain aglycones?

The additive now claimed has the completely surprising and unexpected advantage that it can be added to a finished unhopped malt beverage to obtain the desired level of kettle hop essence and flavorant. Practically, this means that a brewing operation needs to make only one unhopped wort and unhopped beer, and then add the claimed additive of the present invention to obtain a beer with the desired characteristics. Obviously, this would save much manufacturing equipment and space over the present practice of producing many different worts to obtain various finished beers. Accordingly, it is now believed that claims 75 - 80 are allowable over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks above, it is now believed that the application is in condition for allowance. However, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if doing so would expedite the allowance of this application.

Applicants hereby petition to extend the period for response two months from November 30, 2002 to January 31, 2002. A fee transmittal sheet is enclosed for payment of

the extension fee. If any other fees are deemed
necessary, please charge Deposit Account No. 17-0055
accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

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